

Senator Carol Roessler
8 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

January 20, 2006

Dear Senator Roessler,

The Brownfields Study Group is writing in support of the brownfields legislative package you recently introduced to enhance the cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated properties in Wisconsin. Over the last decade, Wisconsin has been a leader in the brownfields arena, consistently ranking among the top six most effective state programs in the nation. We have achieved an efficient and effective public-private initiative that works to create jobs, increase tax base, reduce health threats, protect and create green space and eliminate blight. We firmly believe your legislation will help strengthen this legacy.

The four brownfield provisions in the package include:

- Land Use – This bill offers a more efficient process for creating and modifying enforceable brownfields land use controls, and should accelerate the clean-up approval process, reduce transactional costs, and function as a more user-friendly and accessible method to inform the public.
- Voluntary Party Liability Exemption (VPLE) for Certain Types of Solid Waste Facilities – In order to promote the clean up and reuse of a greater number of brownfield properties, this bill proposes to expand the VPLE protections to apply to a subset of solid waste facilities, known as “unlicensed landfills.”
- Local Government Liability Exemption for Certain Types of Solid Waste Facilities – This bill would exempt a local government from certain parts of the Solid Waste Law for involuntary acquisition of an unlicensed landfill. The local government would be required to prevent any unacceptable exposures to any contamination once the property was put to its intended use, and would also be required to maintain and monitor any existing monitoring or maintenance systems for the landfill. Many communities that are landlocked will be able to use these properties for public purposes and green space, if not for economic development purposes.
- Modifications to the Environmental Remediation Tax Incremental Financing (ER TIF) District – This bill proposes a number of technical modifications to make ER TIFs more useable and more consistent with the recent changes to the Tax Incremental District (TID) statutes. These changes should result in the ER TIF being used more frequently by local governments as an economic development tool for business expansion and job creation.

With a new legislative session upon us, now is the time to move toward the next brownfield achievements, and we strongly invite cosponsorship of your legislation.

Sincerely,

Steve Hiniker
On Behalf of the Wisconsin Brownfield Study Group

Attachment

cc:	Governor Jim Doyle	DOA Secretary Stephen Bablitch
	Senate Majority and Minority Leaders	DNR Secretary Scott Hassett
	Assembly Majority and Minority Leaders	Commerce Secretary Mary Burke
	Brownfield Study Group members	